

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 SIG-03 ISO-00
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12
HA-05 EB-08 COME-00 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 FS-01
MMO-01 SCS-06 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 MCT-01
USSS-00 CA-01 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /168 R

DRAFTED BY STF:LGSHURTLEFF:PH
APPROVED BY AF/C:LDJUNIOR
S/S-O:JETHYDEN

-----129536 171258Z /46

O 171230Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB IMMEDIATE
DIA IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII IMMEDIATE 0320
CINCMAC SCOTT AFB ILL IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0273
SAC OFFUTT AB NEB IMMEDIATE
REDCOM MCDILL AFB FLA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE IMMEDIATE
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE

SECRET STATE 125209

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMP, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA SITREP NO. 4: 2300 GMT MAY 16

1. ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES (FAZ) THIS MORNING MOUNTED A COUNTERATTACK -- INCLUDING A PARADROP IN COMPANY STRENGTH-- ON REBEL FORCES ESTIMATED TO NUMBER UP TO 1200 AND BELIEVED STILL HOLDING MOST OF KOLWEZI, INCLUDING THE AIRPORT. THE COUNTERATTACK IS APPARENTLY AIMED AT LINKING-UP WITH FAZ TROOPS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF KOLWEZI AND SECURING THE AIRPORT PRIOR TO OPING-UP ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY. MOBUTU IS TAKING A CALCULATED RISK BY CONCENTRATING ALL AVAILABLE TROOPS ON KOLWEZI, THEREBY STRIPPING WESTERN SHABA OF ITS DEFENSES AGAINST FURTHER INCURSIONS. HIS JUDGMENT IS VINDICATED BY THE FACT THAT, DESPITE EARLIER REPORTS OF REBEL ACTIVITY AROUND MUTSHATSHA AND AT DILOLO, THE ONLY FIGHTING APPEARS TO BE TAKING PLACE AROUND KOLWEZI. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF ZAIRIAN CLAIMS THAT THEIR COUNTERATTACK IS SUCCEEDING.

2. MORRISON-KNUDSEN, THE CONSTRUCTION FIRM WORKING ON THE INGA-SHABA ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT HAS, ON THE ADVICE
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OF THE ZAIRIAN COMMAND, DELAYED UNTIL FIRST LIGHT
TOMORROW THE EVACUATION BY AIR OF UP TO 20 OF ITS EMPLOYEES

AND THEIR DEPENDENTS NOW GATHERED AT THE COMPANY WORK CAMP OUTSIDE KOLWEZI. THE 40-ODD OTHER AMERICANS WILL REMAIN AT THE CAMP UNTIL LATER ON IN THE DAY, ASSESS THE SITUATION AND DECIDE WHETHER TO DEPART BY ROAD. FOURTEEN OTHER AMERICANS ARE IN REBEL-HELD SECTIONS OF KOLWEZI, ALONG WITH AN ESTIMATED 2000 BELGIAN AND PERHAPS 400 FRENCH NATIONALS. REBEL INDISCIPLINE HAS ALLEGEDLY RESULTED IN AT LEAST 10 EUROPEAN BUT NO AMERICAN DEATHS. IN LIGHT OF THE UNCERTAINTIES WHICH PERSIST WE ARE BEGINNING WORK WITH THE FRENCH AND BELGIANS ON STEPPED-UP CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR THE RESCUE OF EXPATRIATES IN AND NEAR KOLWEZI SHOULD THIS PROVE NECESSARY. THE BELGIANS HAVE TOLD US THEY WILL NOT ACT PRIOR TO FULL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND FRANCE. VANCE

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY:AF:KCBRILL

APPROVED BY:AF:WBEDMONDSON

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P 190557Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 125209

FOR DAS HARROP

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 125209 ACTION KINSHASA, LUBUMBASHI,
BRUSSELS, PARIS, ROME, LUSAKA, LISBON, RAMSTEIN, DIA,
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII, CINCMAC SCOTT AFB IFF, JCS, SAC
OFFUTT AB NEB, REDCOM MCDILL, USUN NEW YORK, USICA WASHDC,
BRAZZAVILLE, HAVANA, RABAT, LIBREVILLE, NAIROBI, ACCRA,
MOSCOW, JIDDA, MONROVIA, LAGOS, BUJUMBURA, AND KIGALI
DATED MAY 17, 1978.

QUOTE: S E C R E T STATE 125209

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMP, CG

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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2661394
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHABA SITREP NO. 4: 2300 GMT MAY 16
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMR, CG
To: KINSHASA LUBUMBASHI MULTIPLE
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